Competition from private courier services

283. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal services of Government are facing stiff competition from the private courier services; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to revamp its postal services network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The private couriers operating in the market are offering competition in some segments to the Government Postal Service.

(b) The Postal Services network is being upgraded and modernized through induction of technology, marketing and introduction of customer friendly services and products.

Creation of 'National Venture Capital Fund'

284. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create a 'National Venture Capital Fund' to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the IT segment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) While such an idea has been mooted, no decision has been taken in this regard.